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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
HORTON, YVONNE MICHELE	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3635	

DATE MAILED: 03/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/085,333	MEYER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yvonne M. Horton	3635	MW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 December 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) *8-11,23-26 and 29-35* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) *8-11,23-26 and 29-35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *03 June 2002* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Withdrawal of Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 8-11 and 17-35 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to HANSON and GILB. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a concrete column (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a wood column (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment. WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of reinforcing in the column and except for the use of a column bracket. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with reinforcing (36) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the reinforcing (36) is affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a concrete column (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a wood column (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment. WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of U-shaped reinforcing in the column and except for the use

of a column bracket. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with U-shaped reinforcing (colored orange and yellow) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the U-shaped reinforcing (colored orange and yellow) is affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10), see the marked attachment. HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a concrete column (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a wood column (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment. WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of four reinforcing bars and reinforcing bar spacers in the column and except for the use of a column bracket. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with four reinforcing bars (colored blue) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the four reinforcing bars (colored blue) also include a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers (colored green). The four reinforcing bars (colored blue are affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10) and the reinforcing bar spacers (colored green) are attached along the column (10) and at a distal end (DE), see the marked attachment. HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket, Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and

very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a concrete column (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a wood column (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment. WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of a column bracket. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been

obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON.

Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a plurality of concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a plurality of wood columns (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment; and a roof member (20) having a covering (23) and being attached to the columns (11). WILBANKS discloses the basic

claimed vertical support system except for the use of reinforcing in the column, except for the use of a column bracket, and except for disclosing that the column is precast. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with reinforcing (36) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the reinforcing (36) is affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. In regards to the column of WILBANKS being precast, although

WILBANKS is silent in this regard, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the column of WILBANKS as precast, especially since the column of WILBANKS is inserted in water prior to being set into the earth there beneath. A precast column would be easier to install in the water.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a plurality of concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a plurality of wood columns (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment; and a roof member (20) having a covering (23) and being attached to the columns (11). . WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of U-shaped reinforcing in the column, except for the use of a column bracket, and except for disclosing that the column is precast. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with U-shaped reinforcing (colored orange and yellow) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the U-shaped reinforcing (colored orange and yellow) is affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10), see the marked attachment. HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. In regards to the column of WILBANKS being precast, although WILBANKS is silent in this regard, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the column of WILBANKS as precast, especially since the column of WILBANKS is inserted in water prior to being set into the earth there beneath. A precast column would be easier to install in the water.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON.

WILBANKS discloses the use of a plurality of concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a plurality of wood columns (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment, and a roof member (20) having a covering (23) and being attached to the columns (11). WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of four reinforcing bars, reinforcing bar spacers in the column, except for the use of a column bracket and except for disclosing that the column is precast. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with four reinforcing bars (colored blue) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the four reinforcing bars (colored blue) also include a plurality of reinforcing bar spacers (colored green). The four reinforcing bars (colored blue are affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10) and the reinforcing bar spacers (colored green) are attached along the column (10) and at a distal end (DE), see the marked attachment. HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket, Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and

very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. . In regards to the column of WILBANKS being precast, although WILBANKS is silent in this regard, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the column of WILBANKS as precast, especially since the column of WILBANKS is inserted in water prior to being set into the earth there beneath. A precast column would be easier to install in the water.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the use of a plurality concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53. The system of WILBANKS also includes a plurality of wood columns (13) secured to a proximal end (PE1) of the column (11), see the marked attachment, and a roof member (20) having a

covering (23) and being attached to the columns (11). WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed vertical support system except for the use of a column bracket and except for disclosing that the column is precast.. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. In regards to the column of WILBANKS being precast, although WILBANKS is silent in this regard, it would have been obvious

to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the column of WILBANKS as precast, especially since the column of WILBANKS is inserted in water prior to being set into the earth there beneath. A precast column would be easier to install in the water.

Claims 29 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the method constructing a post-frame building inherently including the steps of planting of a plurality concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53 and affixing a plurality of wood columns (13). WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed method except for the step of constructing the columns to contain reinforcing bars therein. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with reinforcing (36) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the reinforcing (36) is affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and

very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. Thus, in regards to claim 32, WILBANKS, as modified by HANSON, further discloses the steps of affixing the reinforcing bar (36) to the column bracket (40); positioning the wood column (13); and securing the wood column (13).

Claims 30 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the method constructing a post-frame building inherently including the steps of planting of a plurality concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53 and affixing a plurality of wood columns (13). WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed method except for the step of constructing the columns to contain U-shaped reinforcing bars (colored orange and yellow) therein. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with U-shaped reinforcing bars (colored orange and yellow) at a

proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the U-shaped reinforcing bars (colored orange and yellow) are affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. Thus, in regards to claim 33, WILBANKS, as modified by HANSON, further discloses the steps of affixing the U-shaped reinforcing bars (colored orange and yellow) to the column bracket (40); positioning the wood column (13); and securing the wood column (13).

Claims 31 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the method constructing a post-frame building inherently including the steps of planting of a plurality concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53 and affixing a plurality of wood columns (13). WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed method except for the step of constructing the columns to containing four reinforcing bars therein. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10) with reinforcing (36) at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; wherein the reinforcing (colored blue) is affixed to a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the reinforcing and column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Reinforcing bars are old and very well known for their use on concrete structures. A column bracket gives the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the

depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. Thus, in regards to claim 32, WILBANKS, as modified by HANSON, further discloses the steps of affixing the four reinforcing bars (colored blue) to the column bracket (40); positioning the wood column (13); and securing the wood column (13).

Claim 35 is are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent #4,312,160 to WILBANKS in view of US Patent #4,272,929 to HANSON. WILBANKS discloses the method constructing a post-frame building inherently including the steps of planting of a plurality concrete columns (11) for vertical support of a building as shown in figure 1; wherein the column (11) is inherently planted in the earth (not shown) below the water (9), column 2, lines 51-53 and affixing a plurality of wood columns (13). WILBANKS discloses the basic claimed method except for the step of constructing the columns to include a column bracket. HANSON teaches that it is known in the art to provide a concrete column (10), at a proximal end (PE2) thereof; with a column bracket (40) having a base (44) and depending arms (42) also positioned at a proximal end (PE2) of the column (10). HANSON also teaches that it is known in the art to position another column (12) between the depending arms of the column bracket. Hence, it

would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the system of WILBANKS with the column bracket of HANSON in order to provide the structure with added rigidity while also providing the structure with a means for precisely aligning the wood portion of the column with respect to the concrete portion of the column. Column brackets give the column extra strength especially when a member of a different material is being attached thereto. In reference to the wood member being positioned intermediate the depending arms of the bracket. Although HANSON teaches positioning a concrete member between the depending arms or his bracket, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the modification of WILBANKS by HANSON would incorporate the wood column of WILBANKS as opposed to the concrete column of HANSON. Thus, the wood column (13) of WILBANKS would be positioned between the depending arms (42) of the bracket, as taught by HANSON. Thus, WILBANKS, as modified by HANSON, further discloses the steps of affixing the column bracket (40); positioning the wood column (13); and securing the wood column (13).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8-11 and 17-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yvonne M. Horton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1909. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl D. Friedman can be reached on (703) 308-0839. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YMH
Primary Examiner
February 21, 2004